



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 22-10

RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND KALANI HIGH SCHOOL TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RELATING TO THE USE OF THE KAHALA COMMUNITY PARK BASEBALL FIELD.

WHEREAS, youth sports, including baseball, are very important to the mental and physical well-being of youth in the City and County of Honolulu ("City"), and also positively affect their social, emotional, and intellectual development; and

WHEREAS, the Kalani High School ("KHS") baseball program has used the Kahala Community Park ("KCP") baseball field for many years and has provided support for the park by maintaining the field and cutting the grass; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Design and Construction ("DDC") completed a renovation project of the KCP baseball field backstop less than five years ago that may have failed to comply with safety standards, due to no fault of KHS; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR") received complaints that foul balls from the KCP baseball field were damaging private property next to the field; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 10-1.3 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, "[a]ny person using the recreational and other areas and facilities under the control, maintenance, management and operation of the department of parks and recreation must first obtain a permit from the department"; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2021, the DPR informed KHS that its permit for the use of the KCP field would be denied due to the size and configuration of the field purportedly not meeting DPR standards for distances between the boundary of the field and nearby private residences; and

WHEREAS, despite multiple requests from KHS representatives, the DPR has not provided any documentation of the standards it is referencing; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2021, DPR Director Laura Thielen issued a letter allowing the KHS baseball team to practice at KCP for daily practices, provided that batting practice is conducted using a batting cage, and also designated Goeas Field at Koko Head District Park as a temporarily location for KHS baseball games; and



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WHEREAS, although this provides an adequate short-term solution, Koko Head District Park is approximately six miles from KHS and is not a suitable long-term location for KHS baseball practices and games; and

WHEREAS, the City Council ("Council") believes it is important to support the KHS baseball program's long-term use of KCP, provided a long-term solution is found to address any reasonable concerns from park neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the KHS Athletic Director, Principal, and the Hawai'i State Department of Education ("DOE") have proposed a long-term solution to address neighbors' concerns by installing netting to the KCP (see Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2021, DPR Director Thielen stated that "DPR will also cooperate with the Department of Education, Facilities Division, on improvements that the DOE may install at the field, such as portable netting, to provide a safer environment and may permit games"; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that a loss of KHS's baseball field at the KCP would be an unnecessary detriment to the athletes, the student body, the entire school, and the community as a whole; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City and County of Honolulu urges the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Hawai'i State Department of Education, and Kalani High School to enter into a memorandum of understanding that allows Kalani High School to use the Kahala Community Park baseball field for practices and games, provided that adequate netting is installed to reduce the risk of damage to neighboring private property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges the Department of Parks and Recreation to provide to the Council and Kalani High School the relevant ordinance, rule, or regulation that specifies park standards regarding distances between a boundary of a DPR baseball field and private residences; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Director of Design and Construction, the Superintendent of the State Department of Education, and the Principal of Kalani High School.

INTRODUCED BY:

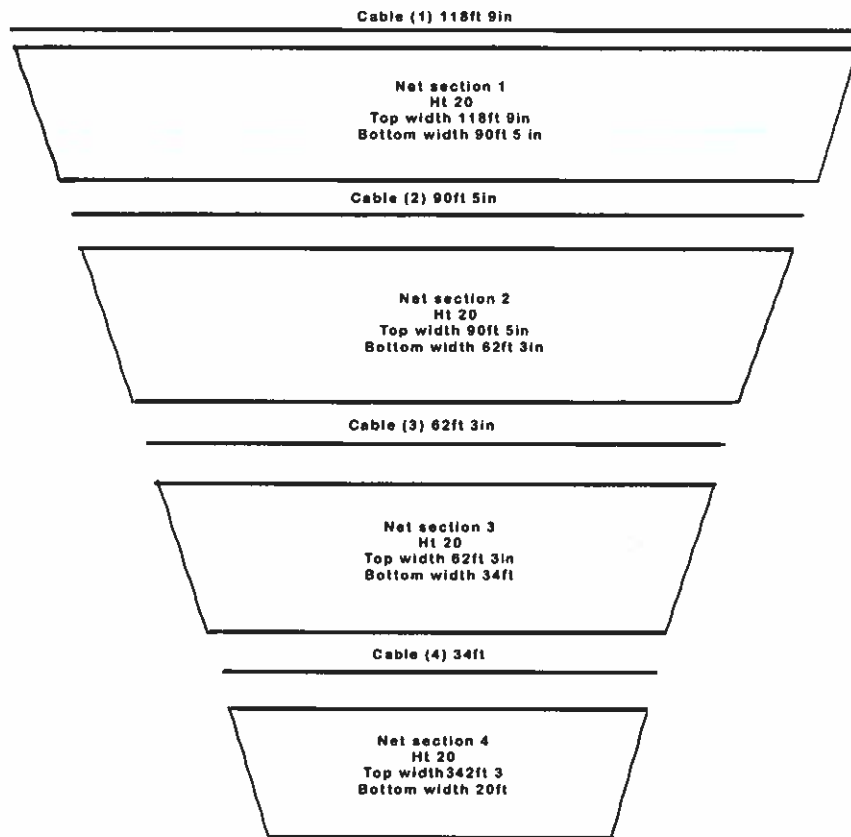
Tony Watson

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JAN 12 2022

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers



Backstop Netting
Nylon Netting #96 gauge 1 7/8inch
3/16 Galvanized Cable
3/16 Cable Ferrules / 3/16 Miscellaneous Fasteners n
4mm Braided Tie Twine